

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee
Virtual Monthly Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
7 PM**

In attendance:

Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair)
Mark Spellmann
Monica Santos
Jim Mellett
George Buck
Elissa Johnson
Pete Viola

Call the Meeting to Order

Mr. Spellmann called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

Approval of Minutes from May 4

Mr. Mellett made a motion to approve the minutes from May 4, 2021. Mr. Viola seconded.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed- Mr. Laemmerhirt joined after vote)

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Grant Status

Ms. Johnson said contracts for the grant are being written. She has ordered all of the equipment and should have it within the next week. She needs reimbursement for expenses, which she put on her personal credit card. Mr Laemmerhirt asked that she send all receipts to him tomorrow, June 2 and he will submit requisitions and have her reimbursed. BPAC is reimbursing her from their account, which will be replenished when the grant funding is received. BPAC also has to plan for paying the graduate assistant.

Mr. Laemmerhirt purchased a 2006 Jon boat for \$600 (less than budgeted), oars, oar locks and a chain plug. BPAC has life vests. He needs to take it for a test drive.

Ms. Johnson would like access to it as soon as possible so she can test equipment before collecting data for grant.

Mr. Laemmerhirt said he needs two weeks to make his property safe and more easily accessible to reach the Jon boat. He needs to discuss a plan with Mr. Quigley and Mr. Simpkins. Mr. Spellmann asked Mr. Mellett and Mr. Viola if the Jon boat could be kept at the private beach for a couple of weeks. They will look into. If not possible, Mr. Spellmann offered Mr. Laemmerhirt the use of his dock. He could paddle over and Ms. Johnson can access the boat from there until Mr. Laemmerhirt's property is ready. They tentatively discussed meeting Sunday, June 6.

Mr. Laemmerhirt needs to look into a combo lock for the Jon boat and a way to secure the oars. Mr. Viola mentioned a shed with combo lock at the private beach, if needed, for the oars.

Ms. Johnson would like to begin grant testing mid and late June (two times a month). Water testing also needs to be done in late June with Mr. Simpkins.

Mr. Buck may have access to free black floats for the Jon boat from a property on Candlewood Lake.

Swamped Paddle Boat at Hawlawah Preserve

Ms. Johnson asked what the process for removal is. Ms. Santos believes the paddle boat is damaged and unusable. Mr. Buck said it needs to be towed to an area that Public Works can access to remove. Mr. Buck has towed abandoned boats to the State boat launch in the past.

Water Testing

Ms. Johnson said some of the results from the May testing have not come back yet from the lab. Ms. Johnson tried to explain the water test results in a less-complicated way in recent emails comparing high levels of Nitrogen from October, 2020 with water test results from April 26, 2021. Nutrient readings are taken at 3 depths; site 1 is surface, site 2 is mid-depth (vicinity of thermocline), and site 3 is close to the bottom. Nitrogen is listed in 4 forms: Kjeldahl (Nitrogen in total organic matter that is released over time), Ammonia (immediately available to algae and rooted plants, Nitrate (immediately available), and Nitrites (which may be converted to nitrates that can be assimilated into algae or plants or undergo denitrification and enter the atmosphere as nitrogen gas). The numbers she shared were all forms of Nitrogen added up in October, 2020 and April 26, 2021. Numbers came down significantly in April 2021.

Both nitrogen and phosphorus levels are in the range that will stimulate algae blooms - meaning total nitrogen above 1 mg/L and total phosphorus above .03 mg/L.

Also, Ms. Johnson calculated trophic indices 3 ways - secchi depth, chlorophyll a, and total phosphorus.

Results: TSI using chlorophyll = 54.03, using secchi = 53.9, and using phosphorus = 52.05.

Each result puts Ball Pond in **eutrophic status**.

More testing needs to be done. There is no explanation at this time for why October's numbers were so high.

Mr. Buck discussed the lack of weeds, the increase in algae and zooplankton.

He also mentioned the State did electroshock last week. He will share data when it becomes available.

Lastly, Yellow Flag Irises were taken down with a weed whacker at the boat launch.

Adjournment

Mr. Viola made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm

Mr. Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim

Lisa Arasim
Secretary
Ball Pond Advisory Committee